

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are amended, and claims 6 and 7 are added. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houf et al. (U.S. 4,769,557) in view of Grant (U.S. 6,441,520). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1 and 4 are amended herein to recite combinations of elements directed to a system module, including power pins disposed along each of a first edge and a second edge on a surface of the case, and a plurality of signal pins disposed adjacently to a third edge on the surface of the case, the third edge being substantially parallel to the first edge and being substantially perpendicular to the second edge.

Full support for the novel combination of elements set forth in claims 1 and 4 can be seen in FIG. 5, which clearly show a plurality of power pins disposed along each of a first edge and a second edge on a surface of the case and a plurality of

signal pins disposed adjacently to a third edge on the surface of the case the third edge being substantially parallel to the first edge and substantially perpendicular to the second edge.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 4 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Houf et al. and Grant.

In contrast to the present invention, the Houf et al. document (FIG. 3a) merely shows power pins 36, 38 disposed adjacently to opposite edges of the case. Neither of the Houf et al. nor the Grant document discloses or suggests power pins disposed along each of a first edge and a second edge on a surface of the case, and a plurality of signal pins disposed adjacently to a third edge on the surface of the case, the third edge being substantially parallel to the first edge and being substantially perpendicular to the second edge.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 4 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Houf et al. and Grant, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner will note that claims 6 and 7 are added, depending from claims 1 and 4, respectively.

Serial No. 09/705,759
Amendment dated February 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated November 7, 2003

Docket No. 3449-0137P
Group Art Unit 2841
Page 7 of 7

Claims 1 and 4 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

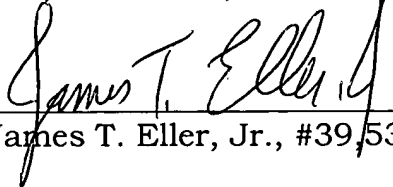
Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James T. Eller, Jr., #39,538


JTE/CTT/bsh/ndb
3449-0137P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000